

Hello:

Regarding the ownership of media, I have the following comments:

-A company should not own a newspaper(s) and broadcast station(s) in the same market.

-A company should not own more than one radio station in the same market.

-A company should not own more than one TV station in the same (local broadcast range as opposed to cable) market.

Currently my radio market, San Diego, is over half owned by the same company, ClearChannel, and the other half is owned by another single corporation. It is my understanding that ClearChannel bought all these radio stations starting in 1996. Since then, the quality and variety of music available in this market has skidded downhill to the point where I mostly listen to tapes, not the radio. The lack of actual market competition has really resulted in inferior product. I think it is much better for the consumer for there to be actual competition in any one market, and no company should ever have an effective monopoly on all the mass media outlets in an area.

Regarding the Fairness Doctrine: I think it should be reinstated. I have to go out on the Web and trade e-mails with my friends to get more than one side of an issue-- I think this is pathetic and needs to be remedied. We should get to hear both (or all) sides of an issue when one view is promulgated on the airwaves. I want real news and analysis -- not Radio Moscow a la USSR!!